

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag. I enjoy the flexibility and control that technology gives me. I can be more than a passive recipient of content; I can modify, create and participate. Technology currently gives me more choices by allowing me to record a television program and watch it later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

It seems, as time goes on, that the Government wants to take away more and more of our freedoms. Homeland security is supposed to monitor all of us to supposedly help "flag" potential terrorists, even though the people who attacked the United States on Sep. 11 were from Saudi Arabia. Of course, the television industry would have the FCC believe that taking away consumers fair-use rights will protect their revenue streams. I, for one, don't want the Government to tell us what we can and can't do as average consumers.